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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
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COMPILATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. At its fourth session, the Committee on the Rights of the Child decided to make available for general distribution a compilation of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at previous sessions. The Committee also decided that this compilation should be updated on a regular basis in the future.

2. The texts of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Committee at its first to third sessions are contained in the annex to the present document.

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Annex

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AT ITS FIRST TO THIRD SESSIONS*

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* Prepared by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK - SESSION AND PRESESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

Sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies 1/

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the rapid entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the unprecedented number of ratifications, which demonstrate a widespread commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Aware of the high expectations for effectiveness in the functioning of the Committee, which constitutes an essential mechanism for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Noting that the initial reports of some 100 States parties will need to be considered by the Committee in a timely and thorough manner between 1992 and 1996, at which time the second periodic reports will start to be due,

Concerned about the workload of the Committee and the risk of building up an undesirable backlog in the consideration of such reports,

Convinced of the need to adopt urgent measures to deal with this situation,

1. Requests the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to schedule at least two regular sessions of the Committee annually as from 1993, as well as to schedule in 1992, in addition to the Committee's second session, a one-week Working Group of the Whole to prepare for the consideration of the first round of States parties' reports;

2. Also requests the General Assembly to authorize the establishment of a pre-sessional Working Group that would meet approximately two months in advance of each session to conduct a preliminary review of reports submitted under article 44 of the Convention and to consider questions relating to technical assistance and international cooperation pursuant to article 45 of the Convention.

II. INFORMAL REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2/

Reaffirming the consideration it has previously made on the usefulness of organizing meetings in different regions of the world in order to enhance implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Encouraged by the successful results of the first informal regional meeting of the Committee, in the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Quito, Ecuador, in June 1992,

Recognizing the important role informal regional meetings can play in promoting greater awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the work of the Committee, as well as in enabling the members of the Committee to acquire a deeper knowledge and better understanding of the realities in a region,

Convinced of the relevance of these meetings to meaningfully enhance international cooperation and joint efforts between the different United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other competent bodies active in the field of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Welcoming the decision of the United Nations Children's Fund to facilitate the Quito meeting in close cooperation with other United Nations bodies, and the efforts made in order to ensure its success,

Stressing the importance of the participation in such regional meetings of non-governmental organizations active in the field of the rights of the child,

1. Welcomes the opportunity given to the Committee to hold the first informal regional meeting in Quito, Ecuador;

2. Expresses its thanks to the host Government of Ecuador for the warm welcome it extended at the opening of the informal regional meeting of the Committee;

3. Recognizes the importance of such meetings to contribute to a wider promotion of the rights of the child;

4. Welcomes the possibility of holding other informal regional meetings, whenever possible on an annual basis.

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 3/

Recalling the conclusion of the third meeting of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that "each of the treaty bodies should have access to all of the sources of information that it feels it needs in order to be effective", and bearing in mind that the information provided by non-governmental organizations and the experience and knowledge of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations have been recognized as having particular importance,

Considering that access by the Committee to all relevant sources of information pertaining to its functions will be essential to ensuring the effective performance of its activities,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, as proposed by the second and third meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, a committee resource room for the purpose of gathering and facilitating access to the various sources of information that are indispensable for the effective functioning of the Committee;

2. Requests the Secretariat to report, at the beginning of each session, on the action taken pursuant to decisions adopted by the Committee at its previous session;

3. Requests the Secretariat to provide a documentary basis for the presentation by the Rapporteur or another designated member of the Committee of a comprehensive report on developments relevant to the work of the Committee that have occurred since the preceding session;

4. Requests the Secretariat to organize country files and to prepare an analytical study of available information concerning each State party whose report is to be considered by the Committee, taking into account both the reporting guidelines and data emerging from reports that have been submitted by the same State party before other treaty bodies;

5. Requests the Secretariat to submit, at the beginning of each session, a list of reports received and those pending consideration in order to enable the Committee to plan its future work in an effective way;

6. Requests the Secretariat to submit to the Committee an updated list of reservations and objections to reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. Requests the Secretariat to submit to the Committee a compilation of international instruments relevant to the work of the Committee, taking into account relevant instruments adopted by the various United Nations organs and specialized agencies as well as relevant recommendations and resolutions, as appropriate;

8. Requests the Secretariat to provide the Committee with a compilation of the general comments and general recommendations adopted by the various human rights treaty bodies;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, in the context of the technical assistance and advisory services programme of the Centre for Human Rights, the training activities related to the implementation of the Convention and, pursuant to the recommendation of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, to consider organizing seminars and workshops at the national level for the purpose of training those involved in the preparation of State party reports to prepare these reports in accordance with the reporting guidelines.

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 4/

Recalling that, as recognized by the Third Meeting of the Persons Chairing the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, "each of the treaty bodies should have access to all of the sources of information that it feels it needs in order to be effective",

Bearing in mind the importance of the information that can be provided to the Committee by the United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other competent bodies, in view of their experience and knowledge in the field of the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that access by the Committee to all relevant sources of information pertaining to its functions will be essential to ensure effective performance of its activities,

1. Reiterates the request addressed to the Secretary-General to establish a committee resource room for the purpose of gathering and facilitating access to the various sources of information that are indispensable for the effective functioning of the Committee;

2. Requests the Secretariat to report at the beginning of each session on the action taken pursuant to decisions adopted by the Committee at its previous sessions;

3. Also requests the Secretariat to continue to organize country files and to prepare an analytical study of available information concerning each State party whose report is to be considered by the Committee, in the light of the adopted reporting guidelines;

4. Encourages United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other competent bodies, in order to foster the effective implementation of the Convention, to provide the Committee with relevant information concerning each State party whose report is scheduled to be considered by the Committee;

5. Expresses concern at the difficulties faced and the delay taken in expediting the implementation of the recommendations of the task force on computerization appointed by the Secretary-General with a view to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies;

6. Recognizes the high priority of the computerization of the work of the treaty-monitoring bodies and its importance to improve the reporting system and encourages the next Meeting of Persons Chairing the Human Rights Treaty Bodies to give particular consideration to this reality and envisage the adoption of adequate and urgent recommendations;

7. Decides to establish a working group among its members to consider the question of the system of information and documentation relevant to its work, including the question of computerization, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations bodies and other competent bodies.

IV. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 5/

Recognizing the importance of disseminating information concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on its implementation so as to create greater awareness and a deeper understanding of its principles and provisions,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, as recommended by the second and third meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, that the United Nations Information Centres make freely available on a routine basis the documents of the Committee for general distribution, particularly the reports of the Committee, the reports submitted to the Committee by the State in whose territory the information centre is located, and the summary records relating to the examination of such reports;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide for, and to facilitate and encourage, the dissemination of information concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the work of the Committee.

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 6/

Recognizing the importance of disseminating information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its implementation with a view to creating greater awareness and a deeper understanding of its principles and provisions and to promote the full realization of children's rights,

1. Welcomes the publication of an issue of the Bulletin of Human Rights on the Rights of the Child;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide for, and to facilitate and encourage, the dissemination of information concerning the Convention and the work of the Committee, in particular:

(a) To consider the translation of the Convention into different languages, inter alia by issuing Fact Sheet No. 10 "The Rights of the Child" in different additional languages;

(b) To consider the inclusion in the "Manual on Human Rights Reporting" of a chapter concerning the mechanism established within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(c) To ensure priority to the completion and issuance of the Travaux préparatoires and the Commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(d) To consider, within the framework of the preparation and dissemination of printed information in the field of human rights, to issue a special publication designed to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to children;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations information centres or, in the countries where such information centres do not exist, the UNDP country offices, make freely available on a routine basis the documents of the Committee for general distribution, particularly the reports of the Committee, the reports submitted to the Committee by the State in whose territory the information centre is located, and the summary records relating to the examination of the reports;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, in the framework of the technical assistance and advisory services programme of the Centre for Human Rights, the training activities related to the implementation of the Convention, as well as the organization of seminars and workshops at the national and local level for the purpose of training those involved in the preparation of State party reports in accordance with the adopted reporting guidelines;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General to consider, within the technical assistance and advisory services programme, providing training and assistance to the national institutions acting in the field of the rights of the child;

6. Also encourages the Secretary-General to consider the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a priority matter within the fellowship programme;

7. Invites States parties to pay particular attention to the need for translating and publishing the Convention in the various local languages, as a means to ensure that the principles and provisions thereof are made widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.

3. Dissemination of information

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 7/

Recognizing the importance of disseminating information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on its implementation system with a view to creating greater awareness and to promoting the realization of the rights of the child,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring that the United Nations information centres or, in the countries where such information centres do not exist, the United Nations Development Programme country offices, make freely available on a routine basis the documents of the Committee for general distribution,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that particular consideration be given to the availability of the reports of the Committee, the reports submitted to the Committee by the State in whose territory the information centre is located, as well as the summary records relating to the examination of the reports and the concluding observations adopted thereon by the Committee;

2. Recommends that, in order to ensure easier access to these documents and to assist States parties in their endeavour to ensure that their reports are made widely available to the public in their own country, in the light of article 44, paragraph 6, of the Convention, serious consideration be given to the issuing of a compilation containing the State party report, the summary records relevant to its consideration and the concluding observations adopted thereon by the Committee.

V. DOCUMENTATION UNIT ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 8/

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring its access to all relevant sources of information pertaining to its functions,

Recognizing the need to ensure effective cooperation and constructive dialogue with United Nations bodies active in the field of the rights of the child, in particular the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling the recommendation made by the 4th meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that a centralized information and documentation unit be created within the Centre for Human Rights,

Recommends that consideration be given to the establishment, within the Centre for Human Rights, of a documentation unit on the rights of the child, entrusted with the task of following and assisting the activities developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

VI. RELATIONS WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND TREATY BODIES

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 9/

Recognizing the importance of establishing effective communication and dialogue with the other human rights treaty bodies on common issues and problems,

Considering the need to ensure its participation in activities taking place within the United Nations which are of relevance to its work,

1. Welcomes and endorses the recommendation made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold, possibly in 1992, a meeting with members of that Committee as well as with members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a view to discussing matters of mutual interest relating to the rights of the child;

2. Welcomes the opportunity to participate in the future meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

3. Resolves to follow, as appropriate, the meetings and activities of other human rights treaty bodies and notes with particular interest the intention of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold, during its sixth session, a general discussion on the question of social and economic indicators;

4. Welcomes the possibility of participating in the seminar of experts on appropriate indicators to measure achievements in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights to be organized under the United Nations programme of human rights activities in 1991-1993, as requested by the Commission on Human Rights and as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 10/

Recognizing the importance of ensuring effective interaction and cooperation with United Nations bodies acting in the field of the rights of the child, including the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recognizing also the need to maintain effective communication and dialogue with the other human rights bodies on common issues and problems,

Considering the need and importance of ensuring its participation in activities taking place within the United Nations framework which are of relevance to its work,

Encouraged by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/15 in which the Commission stressed the continuing need for consultation and exchange of information among all treaty bodies,

1. Welcomes the possibility of holding future meetings with the United Nations bodies acting in the field of the rights of the child, including each of the treaty bodies, with a view to discussing matters of mutual interest;

2. Decides to follow, as appropriate, the meetings and activities of other human rights treaty bodies, as well as other United Nations meetings relevant to its work;

3. Welcomes the holding of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on a biennial basis;

4. Welcomes the opportunity to participate in the seminar of experts on appropriate indicators to measure achievements in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, to be held in December 1992;

5. Welcomes the opportunity to participate in the meeting of experts on the application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles to be organized in Geneva in March 1993, following a proposal of the Secretary-General endorsed by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in its resolution 1992/25, where a wish is expressed to see the Committee on the Rights of the Child represented at the meeting of experts;

6. Expresses the hope that adequate resources will be provided to enable the Committee to develop effective communication and dialogue with other human rights bodies and to participate in United Nations meetings relevant to its work;

7. Invites special rapporteurs appointed by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and working groups established by the Commission and the Sub-Commission to take the Convention on the Rights of the Child into consideration within the framework of their respective mandates;

8. Welcomes the opportunity the second session has provided for starting a constructive and meaningful dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children on questions of common concern, namely on the question of child soldiers, and expresses its willingness to pursue this dialogue at its future sessions.

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 11/

Recognizing the importance of ensuring effective interaction and cooperation with United Nations bodies active in the field of the rights of the child,

Recognizing also the need to maintain effective communication and meaningful dialogue with the other human rights bodies on issues of common interest,

Considering the need for and the importance of ensuring its active participation in activities taking place within the United Nations framework which are of relevance to its work,

Recalling the emphasis put by the 4th meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on the promotion of interaction among treaty bodies,

Reaffirming the decisions and recommendations adopted at its previous sessions,

1. Stresses the need for providing the Committee with adequate resources to enable it to develop effective communication and dialogue with other human rights bodies and to participate in United Nations meetings relevant to its work;

2. Reaffirms its interest and willingness to participate in the proposed meeting of experts on the application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles, and recalls the important framework established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child in this field;

3. Decides to follow closely the preparation process of the International Year of the Family and, in its framework, to strengthen its cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in particular with a view to being associated with that event and having access to the relevant documents and studies;

4. Requests the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia to take the Convention on the Rights of the Child into full consideration in the fulfilment of his mandate and in his future reports.

VII. MEETING OF PERSONS CHAIRING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 12/

Recognizing the importance of contributing to the 4th Meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies,

Bearing in mind its proceedings and decisions on issue of relevance to the agenda of such a meeting,

Decides to bring the following important issues to the attention of the 4th Meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies:

A.

The innovating experience of holding informal meetings at the regional level should be brought to the attention of the 4th Meeting, in view of its relevance as a means to promote greater awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its system of implementation, and to provide the Committee with a deeper knowledge and better understanding of the realities of a region.

B.

Access to all relevant sources of information pertaining to the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child is essential. In this framework the Committee, recognizing the high priority of the computerization of the work of the treaty-monitoring bodies, encourages the 4th Meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to give particular consideration to this reality and to envisage the adoption of adequate and urgent recommendations. The Committee also decides to establish a working group from among its members to consider the question of the system of information and documentation relevant to its work, including the question of computerization, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations bodies and other competent bodies.

C.

In view of the importance of disseminating information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its monitoring mechanism in order to enhance implementation of the Convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to make documents of the Committee classified in the general distribution category freely available, on a routine basis, in the United Nations information centres or, in the countries where centres do not exist, in the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) Encourages the Secretary-General to consider providing training and assistance to the national institutions acting in the field of the rights of the child, within the technical assistance and advisory services programme.

D.

In connection with the issue of reservations and declarations, the Committee deems it is important to recall that the Convention has introduced a holistic approach to the rights of the child, all rights being interrelated and inherent to the dignity of the child.

E.

The Committee recognizes the relevance of handling the question of reservations and declarations in the course of the dialogue to be established with States parties when considering their periodic reports.

VIII. WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Recommendation to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 13/

Pursuant to the paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,

1. Designates its Chairperson as its representative to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights;

2. Adopts the following recommendations:

(a) A specific item relating to the activities of the human rights treaty bodies should be included in the agenda of the World Conference;

(b) The agenda of the Conference should be organized in a manner that the rights of the child are given due emphasis. A specific item should also be included for the purpose of discussing the Convention on the Rights of the Child as an illustration of the indivisibility and interrelationship of different human rights;

(c) The list of issues to be explored during the preparatory process should include:

(i) Improving the effectiveness of the existing human rights treaty bodies;

(ii) Ways and means of strengthening the material and human resources of the Centre for Human Rights;

(d) All members of the treaty bodies of the United Nations human rights system should be invited to participate in the World Conference;

(e) A meeting of members of human rights treaty bodies should be convened as part of the preparatory process in order to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of the work of the treaty bodies with a view to making recommendations for the improvement of their functioning;

(f) The holding of national, regional and international workshops and seminars should be encouraged during the preparatory process and their results should be presented to the World Conference;

(g) Special studies should be undertaken during the preparatory process to enable the World Conference to implement the provisions contained in paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 45/155.

2. Recommendation to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 14/

Recalling its previous recommendations addressed to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights,

Considering that the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session adopted the provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights,

Noting the inclusion in the provisional agenda of an item entitled "Consideration of contemporary trends in and new challenges to the full realization of all human rights of women and men, including those of persons belonging to vulnerable groups",

Recognizing the importance of considering in this framework the question of the enjoyment of the rights of the child in a period of armed conflict,

1. Designates its Chairperson and its Rapporteur as its representatives to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference;

2. Decides to recommend to the Preparatory Committee to address at its fourth session the issue of the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

IX. CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS: RECOMMENDATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 15/

Recalling that in accordance with the provisions of article 45 (c) of the Convention, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake, on its behalf, studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child,

Further recalling that at its second session the Committee devoted one day to a general discussion on the topic "Children in armed conflicts", having discussed the relevance and adequacy of existing standards applicable in the framework of children in armed conflicts; the measures to ensure effective protection to children in situations of armed conflicts and the promotion of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration,

Having concluded that in order to focus greater attention on the serious problem of children in armed conflicts, a major United Nations study should be undertaken,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly, in accordance with article 45 (c) of the Convention, that it request the Secretary-General to undertake a study on ways and means of improving the protection of children from the adverse effects of armed conflicts; for this purpose, the Secretary-General might wish to invite the cooperation of relevant specialized agencies, other United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to bring this recommendation to the attention of the general Assembly for consideration at its forty-eighth session.

Notes

1/ See also A/47/41, Recommendation 1.

2/ See also CRC/C/10, Recommendation 1.

3/ See also A/47/41, Recommendation 2.

4/ See also CRC/C/10, Recommendation 2.

5/ See also A/47/41, Recommendation 4.

6/ See also CRC/C/10, Recommendation 3.

7/ See also CRC/C/16, Recommendation 2.

8/ See also CRC/C/16, Recommendation 4.

9/ See also A/47/41, Recommendation 3.

10/ See also CRC/C/10, Recommendation 4.

11/ See also CRC/C/16, Recommendation 3.

12/ See also CRC/C/10, Recommendation 5.

13/ See A/47/41, Recommendation 5.

14/ See also CRC/C/16, Recommendation 5.

15/ See also CRC/C/16, Recommendation 1.